

IRAQ



Iraq The Iraqi government is continuing to assume full responsibility for its citizens and its future. To assist with this critically important process, the President's FY 2010 budget request focuses on those key areas that will help the Iraqis lay a foundation for lasting peace, stability, and self-reliance. Key events such as national elections (early 2010) and critical reforms such as improving governance, increasing accountability, and strengthening the rule of law will determine the sustainability of hard-won gains. The Iraqi government faces a number of challenges – lower oil revenue, political and economic management of still-new institutions, political reconciliation, the return and reintegration of millions of displaced persons, and subsidy reforms – that could undermine Iraq's stability without targeted foreign assistance from the United States. U.S. foreign assistance is now focused on providing targeted technical and humanitarian assistance to help the Iraqi government and its people consolidate political and security gains, broaden the base of economic growth, and improve the effectiveness and transparency of government institutions. The FY 2010 budget request proposes the following essential components: (a) working with the Iraqi people and the United Nations (UN) to support upcoming elections, strengthen civil society, and support democratic institution building; (b) helping national, provincial, and local government institutions strengthen their capacity to protect and expand the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services; (c) helping displaced Iraqis by working directly with the Iraqi government, the UN, and other international agencies to resettle refugees and displaced Iraqis, supporting neighboring countries already hosting refugees, and cooperating with other countries to resettle Iraqis facing great personal risk; and (d) helping the Iraqi government establish economic policies that engender private sector growth, regional and international economic integration, and sound use of public resources. Although the FY 2010 budget request represents an overall decrease from FY2009 and prior year funding levels, it will support programs for the full fiscal year, regularizing foreign assistance requests for Iraq and setting aside the need for supplemental funding. Targeted U.S. assistance will help the Iraqis strengthen political and civil society institutions; expand economic reforms and bolster the private sector economy; implement key measures to diminish sectarian and ethnic violence; strengthen the foundations for the rule of law and human rights; develop sustainability in the delivery of essential services; and support the development of good governance and greater accountability in regions, provinces, and local municipalities. It is imperative that the United States continue to build on earlier successes in order to help the Iraqi government and its people take full responsibility for Iraq's future stability and growth.

FOREIGN RELATIONS: With the fall of Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath regime, Iraq has taken steps toward re-engagement on the international stage. Iraq currently has diplomatic representation in 54 countries around the world, including 3 permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and the Arab League in Cairo. 43 countries have diplomatic representation in Iraq,

The Republic of Iraq belongs to the following international organizations: United Nations (UN); Arab League (AL); World Bank (WB); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Nonaligned Movement (NAM); Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); Interpol; World Health Organization (WHO); G-19; G-77; Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA); Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD); Arab Monetary Fund (AMF); Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Community for Radionuclide

Metrology (ICRM); International Development Association (IDA); International Development Bank (IDB); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Finance Corporation (IFC); International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Labor Organization (ILO); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Universal Postal Union (UPU); World Customs Organization (WCO); World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Trade Organization (WTO) observer.

U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS: The focus of United States policy in Iraq remains on helping the Iraqi people build a constitutional, representative government that respects the rights of all Iraqis and has security forces capable of maintaining order and preventing the country from becoming a safe haven for terrorists and foreign fighters. The ultimate goal is an Iraq that is peaceful, united, stable, democratic, and secure, with institutions capable of providing just governance and security for all Iraqis and is an ally in the war against terrorism. U.S. forces remain in Iraq (under a UN Security Council mandate) as part of the Multi-National Force-Iraq to assist the Government of Iraq in training its security forces, as well as to work in partnership with the Government of Iraq to combat forces that seek to derail Iraq's progression toward full democracy. The U.S. Government is carrying out a multibillion-dollar program to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Peace and Security: FY 2010 funds will enable Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) to promote: improved local government performance, enhanced social stability, economic growth, and civil society development through quick impact projects and small grants to individuals and organizations. During FY2010, the Department of State will prepare for deeper engagement on Iraq police development, working with the Multi-National Force-Iraq to ensure continuity of civilian security force development efforts. Within that transitional framework, the Office of Anti-terrorism Assistance will conduct an interagency assessment of the Iraqi government's counter-terrorism capabilities and commence a traditional broad-based training program that will begin with crisis management seminars for senior executives. Additionally, support for international military education and training will further develop the professionalism and capacity of Iraq's military and strengthen the critical military partnership between the United States and Iraq. FY 2010 funds will also enable the U.S. Government to continue to support demining and weapons destruction operations. These efforts are successfully clearing important areas of Iraq, which is one of the most severely mine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) afflicted nations in the world. Other programs will focus on building the capacity of the Iraqi government to protect foreign diplomats; control the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and WMD-applicable technology, expertise, and materials; properly dismantle and dispose their former nuclear facilities; counter narcotics trafficking; undermine terrorist financing; and improve border security.

Governing Justly and Democratically: FY 2010 funding will continue to support programs, including through PRTs, that help Iraqi citizens, civil society, and democratic institutions work together to reduce violence and build a sustainable, just, accountable, and responsive system of governance. Programs will also continue to focus on improving the capability and effectiveness of Iraq's government at the local, provincial, and national levels. This is particularly important for newly-elected provincial governments.

For example, the Community Action Program empowers community boards and neighborhood councils by giving community members the tools and training to develop and implement community improvement projects. National ministry capacity building programs will continue critical civil service reform at the national level by bringing core public sector functions, including financial management, effective public budgeting, and procurement, into Iraq's national ministries. The continued inclusion of and support for programs that focus on women's social, economic, and political advancement are critical to a democratic and stable future in Iraq. Training programs supporting women's political participation will be integrated at each level, encouraging effective leadership participation in political parties, networking, coalition building, policy making, and advocacy skills. Supporting widows, victims of coalition warfare and their affected families, and victims of gender based violence will be another important part of community development. The FY 2010 budget request also includes funds for programs that will focus on developing and strengthening the underlying foundations of a democratic system of government. Programs will support national reconciliation, promote transparent and inclusive elections, strengthen issue-based political discourse between government and citizens, and foster Iraq's civil society and independent media. These funds will also support programs that build the capacity of political parties and the Council of Representatives in areas including policy analysis, bill drafting, budgeting, constituent relations, administration, and improved oversight of executive branch agencies. Reform and capacity building within Iraq's criminal justice sector are critical parts of FY 2010 activities. This includes training and advisory assistance to expand and further professionalize the Iraqi Corrections Service; build the skills of judges and investigators; improve coordination and case management; and enhance court and judicial security. Improving accountability and anti-corruption measures will be a primary theme throughout all FY 2010 programs. Programming for human rights and rule of law will continue to be a priority in FY2010. These programs will assist Iraq's legal, democratic, and non-governmental institutions to support and protect human rights, including women's rights; foster national reconciliation and unity; integrate human rights and rule of law education; ensure accountability for abuses; and further democratic change in the Middle East region. Additionally, FY 2010 programs will continue to support national reconciliation efforts by responding to concerns about missing persons issues through training for mass graves excavation, forensic and DNA analysis, and the development of legislation on this issue.

Focus on Performance: A Department of State-commissioned assessment by the Justice Department's National Drug Intelligence Center completed in March 2009, identified numerous drug threats in Iraq including trafficking and abuse. Effectively dealing with these problems before they become more severe will require engagement across Ministries and in various geographic areas of the country. FY10 funds will be used to deploy advisors to work with appropriate elements of the Government of Iraq (GOI) and as appropriate the NGO community and international partners to develop and, to the extent funds allow, help the GOI to implement, a comprehensive counterdrug strategy. The U.S. ongoing corrections advisory presence already has, and will continue to draw down in response to increasing Iraqi capabilities (as evidenced by joint U.S.-Iraq performance audits). The first U.S.-constructed prison was turned over to the Government of Iraq in March 2009 and the last is due to be handed over by January 2010. With U.S. advisory help the Iraqi Corrections Service should be able to activate these prisons within three to four months of turnover. Providing these advisors helps to ensure full and effective use of our substantial infrastructure investment. The Department of State is also funding projects to improve the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of Iraq's criminal courts. Its three major initiatives (the Judicial Education and Development Institute for continuing legal education, a court administration system overhaul, and a formal judicial/court protection capacity) should largely transition to full Iraqi ownership by the end of calendar 2010. The Tatweer program builds the capacity of key Iraqi ministries to develop the public management skills of ministerial staff and institutionalize training activities at the GOI National Training Center at the central and provincial levels. The program aims to improve and reform the GOI institutions' internal systems and processes and to introduce international best practices. The main GOI counterparts are the Prime Minister's Office, two Deputy Prime Ministers' Offices, Presidency Council and the Council of Ministers Secretariat and ten key ministry staff at the central and provincial level. The

program assists the Prime Minister Advisory Committee hosting the Civil Service Committee in introducing legislative and operational reforms. Tatweer training addresses core administrative and essential management skills that contribute to a better performance and efficient delivery of services. The skills include project management, strategic planning, procurement, budget, and human resource management. The Tatweer training-of-trainers component allows the GOI to assume more of the training responsibilities through their central and regional training centers. The program was recently extended until January 2011 and the additional funds have made it possible to expand the program into the provinces in a more robust way and train additional staff.

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Humanitarian Assistance: As Iraq becomes more secure, a major priority is the need to develop stable communities for the resettlement and reintegration of Iraq's returnees and vulnerable communities. To address this priority, assistance will target the needs of local communities in order to create successful reintegration and resettlement conditions. This assistance will be broad-based and help with community mobilization and cooperation, social and economic small scale infrastructure development, and employment and income generation. In addition, funding will include specific community development activities determined by the needs identified within the vulnerable communities. The Administration also plans to provide robust and predictable assistance to Iraqi refugees and IDPs through its core humanitarian accounts in a manner consistent with President Obama's pledges to these groups.